

GAINING EARLY AWARENESS & READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

(GEAR UP)

GEAR UP Michigan: Reaching the Urban Centers

2001 - 2006

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth

Year 1 Work Plan, Submitted October 29, 2001

GEAR UP MICHIGAN is a collaborative project that emphasizes early college readiness and includes a scholarship component for Michigan students.

As the goal of this program Michigan affirms the GEAR UP Mission:

The mission of GEAR UP is to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

GEAR UP Michigan: Year 1, Objectives, Specific Activities, Benchmarks, Outcomes, and Timelines.

OBJECTIVE 1. Increase access to information for parents, students, educators, and administrators regarding the benefits and accessibility of postsecondary education in Michigan.

Benchmarks, Specific Activities, Outcomes and Timelines

1.1 75% of Michigan GEAR UP students and parents will participate in postsecondary education planning through the career preparation system and development of an Educational Development Plan (EDP) by project completion. 15 % of GEAR UP students will complete an initial EDP by 6/30 /02.

Outcome: Students, parents, and educators have a road map for success.

1.2 100% of the students in GEAR UP schools will receive individual guidance on postsecondary education planning by the 10th grade. Age appropriate information about the benefits of college and increased earning potential, types of college options, locations and programs of study will be provided to 100% of the GEAR UP students by 6/30/02.

Outcome: students and parents begin to understand the benefits of college and increased earning potential, various college options available and begin to think college is possible.

1.3 The state will provide technical assistance to local GEAR UP sites for the provision of comprehensive early intervention services to low income and academically at-risk students. By 6/30/02, 75% of GEAR UP students will receive at least one documented early intervention service.

Outcome: The myriad of services provided locally will build self-esteem and change attitudes toward succeeding and attending college.

1.4 GEARUP middle school students will participate in career exploration activities. 15% of GEAR UP students will indicate increased knowledge of educational requirements related to careers by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students begin to understand why school counts and the benefits of postsecondary education. They will realize how high school and postsecondary education can help them achieve their potential and is related to career choices.

1.5 GEAR UP students and parents will participate in a “college days” experience. 10 % of GEAR UP students will participate in a “college days” experience by 8/14/02.

Outcome: Personal experience increases a students and parents understanding of what college is, who attends, and that college attendance is possible for them.

1.6 A GEAR UP scholarship committee(s) will be established and award criteria will be determined and communicated to 100% of students, teachers, parents, and staff by 5/01/02.

Outcome: Students and parents gain understanding that hard work will pay off.

1.7 75% of the GEAR UP students will sign the GEAR UP pledge, to become academically competitive and graduate from high school, by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students and parents gain understanding that commitment and hard work is necessary to reach goals.

1.8 10% of the GEAR UP students and parents will be introduced to the TalentFreeway, Michigan’s Internet career development system, and its component web sites by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students gain an understanding that technology is helpful to identify resources that will help them reach their goals. .

OBJECTIVE 2. Raise awareness of financial opportunities for university and college study.

Increase the educational expectations for participating students as well as student and family knowledge of postsecondary education options and financing.

Benchmarks, Specific Activities and Timelines

2.1 100% of Michigan GEAR UP schools will disseminate early financial aid awareness information to parents by 6/30/02

Outcome: Students and parents gain awareness of college costs enabling them to plan accordingly.

2.2 A financial aid kit will be developed for distribution to 85% of the GEAR UP students, counselors, and staff by 5/01/02.

Outcome: Students, parents, counselors, and staff are provided information on the abundance of financial aid available to attend college. This begins to change attitudes that college is a possibility regardless of economic status.

2.3 Specific information on the costs of postsecondary education will be distributed to 80% of the students and parents by 4/01/02.

Outcome: Students begin to have awareness of actual college costs at the various types of institutions.

2.4 10% of the GEAR UP parents estimates of the actual average cost of attending a 4-year public institution shall be within \$500 by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Parents begin to have an understanding of the reality of college costs.

2.5 10% of the GEAR UP students estimates of the actual average cost of attending a 4-year public institution shall be within \$500 by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students begin to have an understanding of the reality of college costs.

OBJECTIVE 3. Raise academic standards and expectations. Ensure that GEAR UP students receive the academic preparation, social support, and guidance necessary to succeed in college and the workforce.

Benchmarks Specific Activities and Timelines

3.1 75% of the students, teachers, administrators, and parents will indicate being informed of high academic expectations for college by project completion. 10% of GEAR UP students will indicate an understanding of college admission requirements by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students, parents, and teachers will understand the high academic expectations for college admission.

3.2 On-time high school graduation rates will increase 10% over baseline within six years for GEAR UP schools. High school dropout rates will decrease by 20% over baseline within six years. In year 1, a stay-in-school marketing campaign will be initiated. 15 % of all GEAR UP students will indicate a desire to complete High School and enroll in postsecondary education by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students understand the importance of high school completion in reaching goals.

3.3 The need for college remediation of Michigan GEAR UP students will be decreased as documented by improvements in Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) tests and Work Keys testing. 85% of each cohort will demonstrate an improvement in WorkKeys math and reading test scores over the preceding year beginning in the 9th grade. By 6/30/02, the 7th grade cohort will show an increase in satisfactory ratings over the preceding year on the MEAP test(s).

Outcome: Students will have an increased understanding of the importance of core academics relative to college entrance and meeting future goals. Teaching styles and attitudes will embrace and reflect the importance of core academics in preparing students for postsecondary education.

3.4 Mathematics, Science, and English/Language Arts, students will show steady increases in grades. By 6/30/02, the number of GEAR UP students receiving a B or above will increase by 2% over the immediately preceding year.

Outcome: Students and teachers recognize the importance of excelling as a means of reaching future goals.

3.5 Advanced Mathematics, Advanced Science, and Advanced English/Language Arts, enrollments will increase by 2% each year beginning in year 2. (Note: Advanced is used to denote students who are deemed to be working above grade level.) In year 1, information will be provided through Michigan's Career Pathways initiative on the importance of these subjects to 100% of the GEAR UP schools by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Students begin to understand the applicability of various subjects to careers.

3.6 Enrollments in Pre-algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, and at least one AP Class will increase by 2% each year over the preceding year beginning in year 2. Information will be provided through Michigan's Career Pathways initiative on the importance of these subjects to 100% of the GEAR UP schools by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Math and science are recognized as critical disciplines to master for future postsecondary education and ultimately career success.

OBJECTIVE 4. Increase professional development opportunities for educators and counselors.

Benchmarks Specific Activities and Timelines

4.1 Seventy-five percent of the teachers in GEAR UP schools will report participating in professional development by project completion. 10% of teachers at GEAR UP schools will report receiving professional development that will help them assist students meet GEAR UP goals by 8/14/02

Outcome: Teachers are invigorated with new ideas and attitudes to better prepare GEAR UP students for post secondary education and making career choices.

4.2 The Michigan Department of Career Development will facilitate a state GEAR UP Advisory Board through the Governor's Workforce Commission designed to increase dialogue, create alignment between K-16 educators and systems, and recommend topics for professional development by April 2002.

Outcome: GEAR UP efforts are recognized and sanctioned by the political and business communities.

OBJECTIVE 5. Increase the number of parents and family members who are fully participating in employment training and employment opportunities.

Benchmarks Specific Activities and Timelines

5.1 25% of parents and family members who are in need of a high school diploma or GED will be provided with the information, referrals, resources, and encouragement to enroll by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Parents and family members will be in a position to lead by example reinforcing the importance of education.

- 5.2** 25% of parents and family members who are in need of employment and training and employment opportunities will be provided the information, referrals, resources, and encouragement to access career development assistance at Michigan's One Stop Centers by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Parents and family members will begin to understand the opportunities available to the to improve their lives and the importance of lifelong education.

- 5.3** Parents and family members will be introduced to the TalentFreeway, Michigan's Internet career development system, and its component web sites. 10% of GEAR UP parents and or family members will indicate knowledge of the electronic tools available by 6/30/02.

Outcome: Parents and family members begin to understand the importance of technology as a tool to future success for themselves and their GEAR UP student.